Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please add new claims 29-31.

Please cancel claims 1-9, 15, and 23 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 10, 14, 16, 18, 21, 22, and 24 as indicated below. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[ ]].

<u>Listing of Claims</u>:

1-9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently Amended)   A method of transferring data for printing, comprising:

providing print data at a controller, the print data having a plurality of data elements specifying positions for colorant placement onto print media by a printing device;

applying a **predefined** mask to the print data **at the controller** to specify an invalid portion of the data elements;

removing the specified invalid portion of the data elements from the print data to compress the print data; and

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sending intermediate data corresponding to the compressed print data to the printing device from the controller;

wherein the printing device expands the intermediate data based on **using a** [[the]] **copy of the** mask **stored in memory of the printing device**; and

wherein the printing device prints at least a subset of the expanded intermediate data.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the printing device has a printhead with an array of nozzles, wherein applying the mask further specifies a remaining valid portion that defines a firing arrangement for a subset of the nozzles, and wherein the printing device prints the subset of the expanded intermediate data by ejecting ink droplets from the array of nozzles onto the print media according to the firing arrangement.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the data elements of the print data have values, the method further comprising changing the values of at least a subset of the valid portion before sending.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein applying, removing, and sending are conducted a number of times on the print data to produce a corresponding number of interlaced patterns of printed output.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the printing device is configured to expand the intermediate data by inserting invalid data elements into the intermediate data based on the **copy of the** mask.

15.   (Canceled)

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16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the printing device expands the intermediate data by disposing the intermediate data in a pattern, the pattern being defined by the **copy of the** mask.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein removing provides a first compression, the method further comprising performing a second compression of the compressed print data before sending.

18.   (Currently Amended) A system for transferring print data to a printing device, comprising:

a controller configured to **use a predefined mask to** select a first portion of print data disposed in a first pattern and to remove a second portion of the print data disposed in a second pattern that is complementary to the first pattern so that the print data is compressed; and

a printing device **including a copy of the mask stored in memory and being** configured to receive intermediate data corresponding to the compressed print data, [[and]] to expand the intermediate data **using the copy of the mask, and** based-on-at least-one-of-the-first-and-second-patterns,-the-printing-device-being-configured-further to print at least a subset of the expanded intermediate data.

19.   (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the printing device is an inkjet printing device.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the printing device is configured to expand the intermediate data by inserting data elements into the intermediate data based on the second pattern.

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21.   (Currently Amended) A printing device for printing .expanded data produced from intermediate data received from a controller, the intermediate data corresponding to print data that is compressed **using a predefined mask and** by retaining a first portion of the print data disposed in a first pattern and removing a second portion of the print data disposed in a second pattern that is complementary to the first pattern, the printing device comprising:

memory storing a copy of the mask;

a processor configured to receive the intermediate data and to expand the intermediate data **using the copy of the mask and** based on at least one of the first and second patterns; and

a colorant delivery mechanism coupled with the processor and configured to deliver colorant to print media according to the intermediate data after such intermediate data is expanded by the processor.

22.   (Currently Amended) The printing device of claim 21, further comprising expansion instructions that instruct the processor in expanding the intermediate data **using the copy of the mask and** based on the at least one pattern.

23.   (Canceled)

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24.   (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting data to a printing device, comprising:

providing a first array of M X N print data elements **to a controller**;

applying a predefined mask **at the controller** to the first array so as to create a second array of M X N print data elements, the second array including a valid portion and an invalid portion; and

transmitting the valid portion **selectively** to a printing device **that includes a copy of the predefined mask stored in memory of the printing device**,

wherein the printing device uses **the** [[a]] copy of the predefined mask to convert the valid portion into a third array of M X N print data elements, and wherein the printing device generates printed output according to the third array of print data elements.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the third array of print data elements describes a firing pattern for an M x N array of ink nozzles in the printing device.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the printing devices retains the copy of the predefined mask in non-volatile memory local to the printing device.

27.   (Original)   The method of claim 24, wherein the valid portion is compressed prior to transmission to the printing device.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein M is equal to N.

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29.   (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the printing device expands the intermediate data using a copy of the mask stored in non-volatile memory of the printing device.

30.   (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the printing device includes a copy of the mask stored in non-volatile memory.

31.   (New) The printing device of claim 21, wherein the memory storing a copy of the mask is non-volatile memory.

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